

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph appearing on page 5, lines 18-22 with the following paragraph:

The upper lid 120 is sized and shaped to generally close the open top end of the canister 105. The upper lid 120 is provided with a central inlet or opening [[195]] 122 for cooling air. The upper lid 120 can be formed from steel or any other suitable material. The upper lid 120 is removable removably secured to the top of the canister side wall 135 by removable fasteners 200 such as, for example, screws.

Please replace the paragraph appearing on page 5, line 23-page 6, line 1, with the following paragraph:

The canopy 125 is coupled to the top of the central vacuum system 100 and generally encloses the central opening [[195]] 122 in the upper lid 120. The canopy 125 can be molded of a plastic material such as, for example, an ABS plastic. A plurality of cooling-air inlets [[205]] 195 are provided in a dome portion of the canopy 125. The inlets [[205]] 195 are preferably a plurality of parallel and spaced-apart slots. The inlets [[205]] 195 are positioned so that there is generally not a direct pathway from the central opening [[195]] 122 of the upper lid 120 to the inlets [[205]] 195 of the canopy 125 to reduce noise emitted from the central vacuum system 100 through the central opening [[195]] 122. The canopy 125 is secured to the top of the canister side wall 135 by the same fasteners 200 which secure the upper lid 120. Alternatively, separate fasteners can be used or the canopy 125 can be integral with the upper lid 120.

Please replace the paragraph appearing on page 6, lines 15-28, with the following paragraph:

The vertical gasket 185 comprises a vertical sealing area 186, which provides an increased surface sealing area for the locking mechanism 300 as compared to conventional designs. A plurality of horizontal ribs 350 are located around the periphery of the gasket 185 to facilitate reduced friction and drag during engagement and disengagement of the locking mechanism. The vertical gasket 185 also includes a bead roll 360 formed in the gasket 185 (e.g., in an end portion of the gasket). The diameter of the bead roll 360 corresponds with a groove (not shown) formed in an exterior surface of the canister 105. When the bead roll 360 is fit into the groove, the vertical gasket 185 is held firmly in place with respect to the canister 105. In contrast, conventional central vacuum systems employ adhesives to hold a sealing gasket in place. Such adhesives have shown to not hold up over a lifetime of the central vacuum system. Any suitable material can be utilized to manufacture the vertical gasket 185; however, superior synthetic rubber is preferred in order to provide lifetime durability of the gasket. Accordingly, customer and/or dealer maintenance are substantially reduced or mitigated.

Please replace the paragraph appearing on page 7, lines 10-15, with the following paragraph:

Fig. 6 depicts a handle 600 of debris receptacle 115. The handle 600 includes a notch 620 at a center portion, which is located between end portions 610. The debris receptacle 115 is coupled to central vacuum canister 105 by introducing one of the handle end portions 610 of the handle 600 into a wide open lateral end portion 312 of [[a]] the twist-lock latch 180 located on the canister 105. The debris receptacle 115 is twisted until the inserted end portion 610 reaches the stop detent 330 on the twist-lock latch 180.